

Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society Annual General Meeting

June 26, 2022

AGM 2022
Together
Again



Our **CLRSS** Mission Statement

To **inform** and **educate landowners**,
other **citizens** and **government** about the
environmentally sustainable use and protection of the
Cowichan watershed with emphasis on the upper
Cowichan watershed and all its riparian zones.

and

To work with **schools, citizens and other like-minded
groups** for this purpose.

President's Report **Highlights of 2021**

- Survived **this 2nd Covid year** with Zoom calls holding us together
- Distributed **bi-monthly newsletters** to members to stay in touch
- Continued our life saving **fry rescue program**
- Collaborated with the Tube Shack on the **2021 River Clean Up last September**
- Continued **water quality sampling programs** with BCLSS & BCCF and **collaborated** with the CWB & the Sustainable Roundtable
- Collaborated with Cowichan Arts community through CVAC & CWB on **Our Watershed Through the Lens of Art program**
- Continued **Weir Ready campaign** participating in Weir Design processes
- Worked on the **Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden**
- Joined the **National Decibel Coalition** to combat loud boat noise
- Continued progress on our **Youth Engagement** goals through work with student group at **Lake Cowichan Secondary**



Looking Ahead to 2022 - Ken Traynor

- With COVID restrictions easing? we are getting back in action
- Distribute our **bi-monthly newsletters** to members
- Continue our core programs: **fry rescue, water quality sampling, GT Native Plant Garden, support for Weir replacement**
- Refine the Design and concept of a new Signature Community Event and award our yearly Student bursary
- Maintain our **collaboration with BCCF** on Riparian restoration, sunscreen residue issue and water sampling activities
- Continue progress on our **Youth Engagement** goals through work with student group at **Lake Cowichan Secondary**
- Continue **active support for the building of a new weir** as it moves from the design phase to the water licence application phase
- Reinvigorate our Board of Directors and new Executive Team



In 2019 CLRSS Members worked for 3 days re-imagining the future of CLRSS and preparing a new Strategic Plan

Progress in 2021 continued to be slow under Covid constraints



CLRSS Guiding Values

Our Values

We acknowledge that we live and work on the traditional territories of the Ts'uubaa-asatx, Ditidaht and Quw'utsun First Nations. Our aim is that the work of our organization will make a positive contribution to our shared future in this valley.

We conduct our business using the Fourfold Way:

- We respect each other by having just one speaker at a time;
- We expect people to speak from the heart with passion;
- We expect people to show up to solve problems; and
- We expect people to speak without blame.

We believe we are facing a climate emergency and must act accordingly.

Our Place

Our stewardship actions are focused in the Cowichan Lake and upper Cowichan River in active partnership with residents of Honeymoon Bay, Youbou and Town of Lake Cowichan as well as the CVRD, Cowichan Watershed Board, British Columbia Conservation Foundation, Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable and other active valley organizations.

CLRSS Guiding Vision for the Future

CLRSS is dedicated to raising awareness through consensus and collaboration within our community towards creating a resilient and diverse watershed.

Priorities identified at the 2019/20 CLRSS Revisioning Sessions

Strategic Priorities 2020-2022

1. Increase awareness of and support for building new weir

Goals

- Increase Public support
- Increase Community Understanding of New Weir benefits
- Protect our watershed from Climate Change Impacts

2. Increase Youth Engagement

Goals

- Increase Youth membership
- Re-establish Lake Studies program
- Collaborate with other valley youth programs
- Establish Youth Roundtable

3. Protect Lake Shore Lands

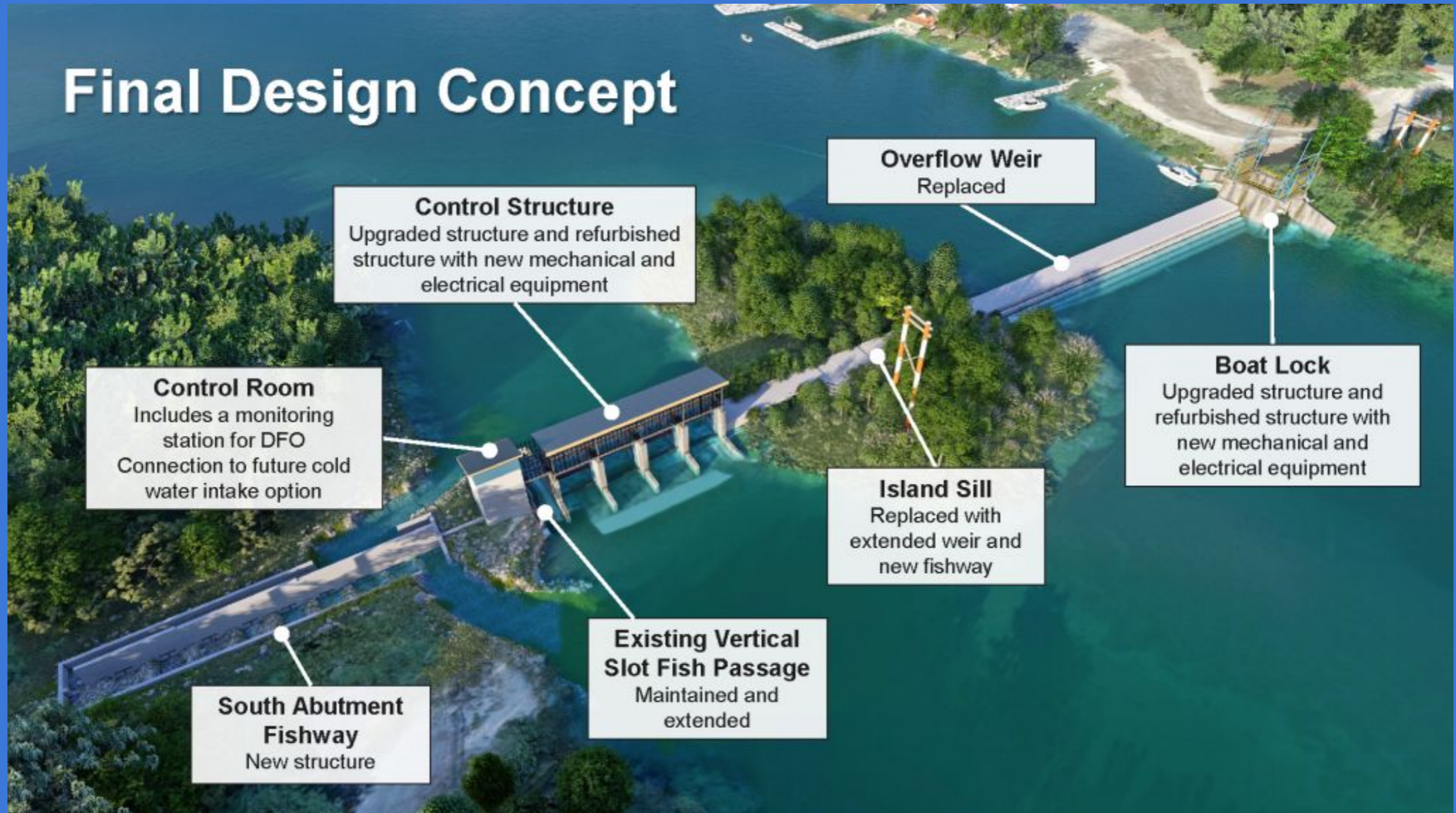
Goals

- Protect critical undeveloped Shoreline and tributary habitat
- Promote protection for Shaw Creek watershed
- Expand Shoreline riparian habitat restoration work to tributary creeks

Weir Design is complete and Shoreline Assessment Project Reports to Public Zoom Meeting June 16th

Go To cowichanlakeweir.ca for details

Final Design Concept



Youth Engagement

After completing CLRSS' strategic plan - the education Committee moved forward to engage with the youth of the Lake Cowichan Region. We connected with a fabulous educator, Noni Battye. While the CLRSS education committee has a future goal of implementing a summer camp to incorporate youth engagement and the CLRSS vision, our goal this year was to engage with youth through micro-workshops. Noni connected us to a group of 6 very ambitious students from Lake Cowichan Secondary (LCS) who were looking to implement their own in-school programs over the next school year. In 3 workshops, we were able to finalize the following programs for the coming school year:

- 1) Native plant gardening on campus
- 2) An all-school river clean-up (with groups dedicated to their own sections of the river).
- 3) Education on keeping the river clean (and partnering with Lake Cowichan's local tubing companies to help with signage in partnership with LCS).

These themes (clean-up, native plants and education) all fit within the curriculum of a potential CLRSS summer camp. In addition, we have given the six students plus Noni an honorary membership to the CLRSS.

Our 2021 Activities

On-going Core CLRSS Activities	Original Timing	2021 Covid Timing
Upper River Clean Up September 2021 Lead - Lyndon Keeping	Planning begins in May	Collaborated with Tube Shack in Sept 2021
Salmon Fry Rescue Lead - Dave Depape & Joe Saysell	April to August as needed	Small Group socially distanced activity undertaken
Water Quality Monitoring on the Lake Lead - Bee Greenway	Weekly June to September	Small Group socially distanced activity undertaken
Shoreline Owner Education & Promoting Riparian Restoration Lead - Ken Traynor	May to October	BCCF did final restoration activity and completed Final Report
Gerald Thom Bursary Lead - Di Gunderson	May	Bursary Awarded
Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden Lead -Lois Atchison & Rosemary Danaher	April to October	Small Group socially distanced activity undertaken
Monthly Meetings at Country Grocer Mtg Room	First Monday of month	Done via Zoom
Website Lead - Ken Traynor	Website upgrade	Completed
Youth Engagement Lead - Chantelle Carden	Engage students & teachers at LCS	Done via Zoom meetings
Bi-monthly Member Newsletter Lead - Chantelle Carden & Ken Traynor	Bi-monthly by mailchimp	Sustainable under Covid
Sales & Infor. Tables Lead - Rosemary Danaher	At local events	Cancelled until safe
Fundraising Lead - Maureen Quested	At local events	Cancelled until safe
Membership Lead - Maureen Quested	On-line and local events	On-line and phone calls

The Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society

Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2022

ASSET

Current Assets

Island Savings Credit Union General	11,552.14	
Membership Shares	5.84	
Island Savings Credit Union Bursary	<u>6,878.49</u>	
Total Cash		<u>18,436.47</u>

TOTAL ASSET **18,436.47**

EQUITY

Members Equity

General	9,623.77	
Salmon Fry Rescue Funds	1,934.21	
Bursary/Gerald Thom Fund	<u>6,878.49</u>	
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>18,436.47</u>

EQUITY **18,436.47**

The Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society Income Statement April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022

	REVENUE
Membership Fees	1360.00
Donations	1041.75
Sales	80.00
Fundraising	2624.20
Interest Revenue	<u>0</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>5,105.95</u>
	EXPENSES
Signs	257.00
BCLSS	50.00
Printing Costs	0.00
Purchase for Sales	218.40
Gifter Apparel	0.00
Insurance	876.00
Bank Charges	11.00
Office Expenses	97.92
Courses & Meetings	104.05
CSSP Activities	0.00
River CU	166.65
Fundraising Expenses	0.00
Misc Other	34.45
Transfers to Bursay Fund	934.74
Fry Rescue	0.00
Lanowner Education	0.00
GT Memorial Garden	0.00
Website update	24.26
Watershed Art Project	<u>1011.68</u>
Total Expenses	3,786.15
NET INCOME	<u>1319.80</u>

2021/22 Membership Report

Many thanks to Maureen Questad for taking over responsibility for our membership campaign with support from Mike Patrick.

Current membership numbers are down from previous years as we have not been able to get out doing our membership drives at Country Grocer and other events. Thanks to all our core members who have continued to be active and support us in these difficult times.

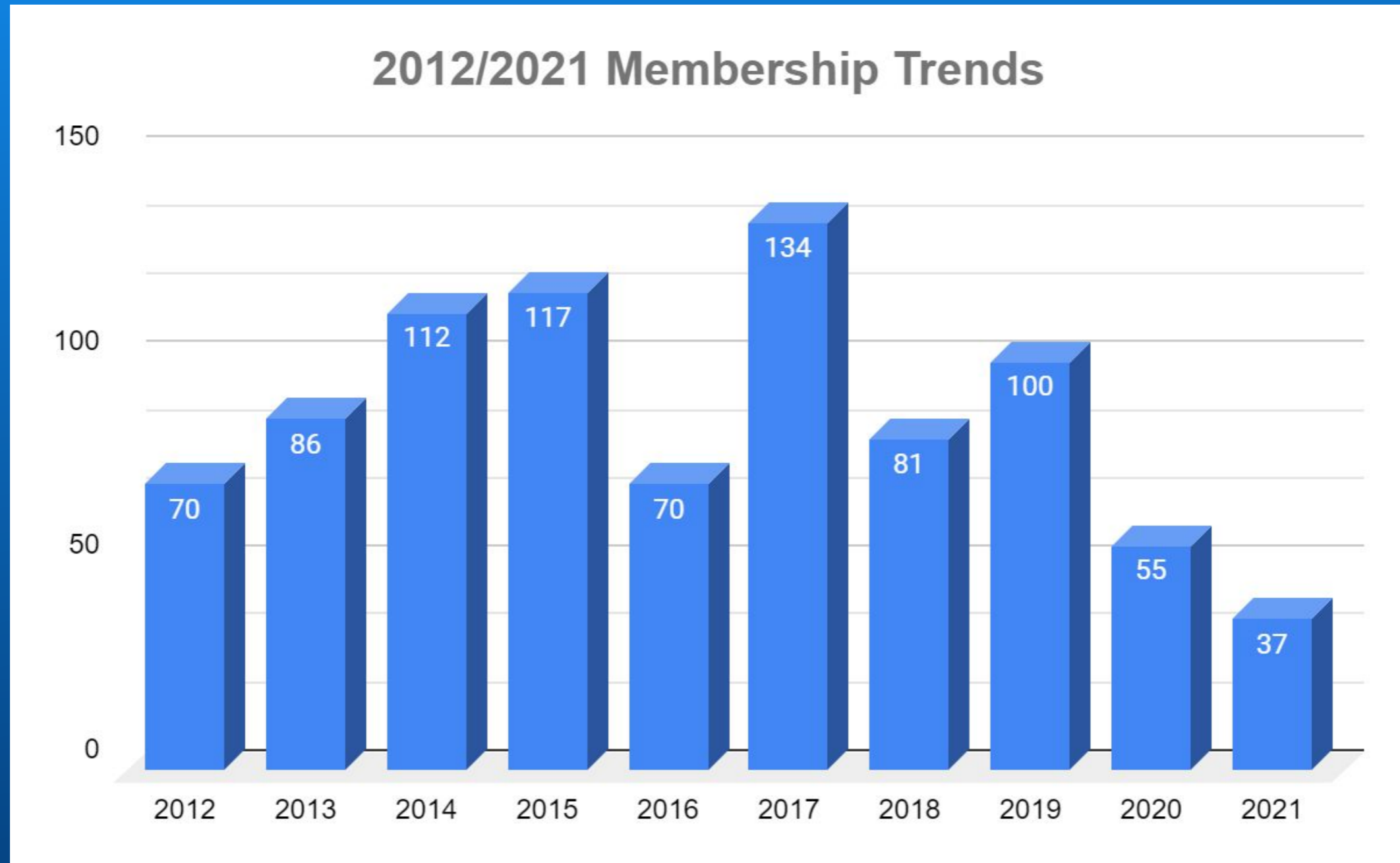
Current membership numbers as of May 1, 2022

7 life time

37 Total Members

The Membership Committee will be reaching out to lapsed members in the summer months. Total volunteer hours in this COVID year were 2,490 hours. We are looking forward to getting back out into the community soon. Well done everyone!

2020/21 Membership Report



CLRSS was delighted to be engaged in a community-wide, art project with the **Cowichan Watershed Board** and the **Cowichan Valley Arts Council** in summer/21 which culminated in an art show at the CVAC Gallery, 2687 James Street, Duncan from August 27th to September 25th. CLRSS had two subprojects: **Witnessing the Water and A Moment in Time**. (See our website for details).

The collegiality required in such a unique project was marvelous to experience. The community response was very positive and many CLRSS members were involved in creating art.

Our Watershed(s) Through the Lens of Art

Rest and witness the water passing by
you right now.

**These water molecules left
Cowichan Lake hours minutes ago.**

In just months they could evaporate
and return as surface water or thousands of years
could pass before they make their way through the
groundwater and back to the earth's surface.

*How are you witnessing this miraculous
water?*

How is this moment affecting you?

Become part of a collective, **water-
witnessing** art installation -

Take photos, write poems, make personal art
statements and send to:

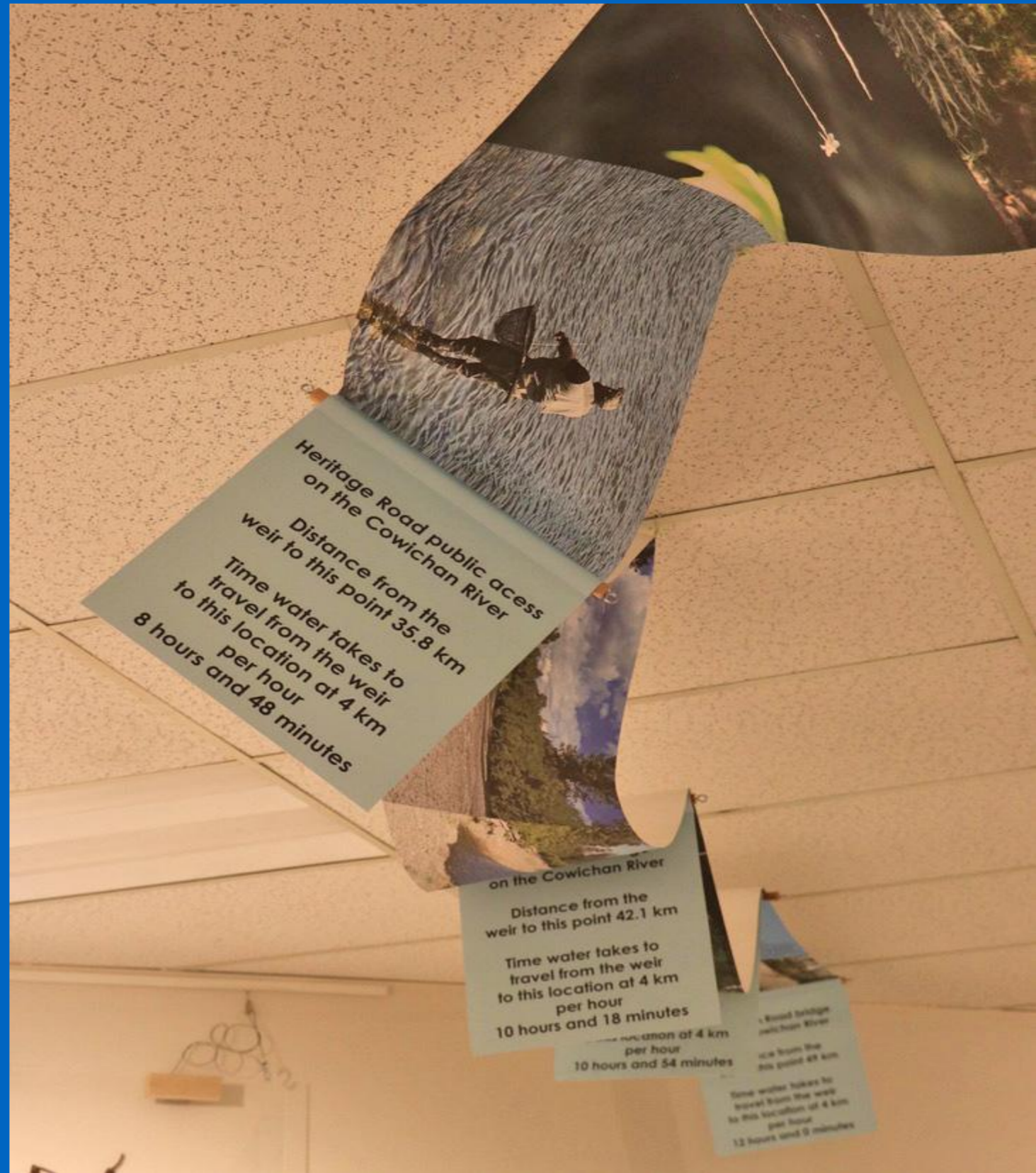
clrss.information@gmail.com



Everything is connected

This sign will be removed on August 15

A 70 foot ribbon of photos, highlighting 12, special Cowichan River locations that are accessible to all who are interested in 'witnessing the water' as it flows from the Lake to the estuary. This wonderful artistic tour of the watershed graced the CVAC gallery.



Fundraising Report - Maureen Quested

- Take your bottles & cans to Island Return-It Duncan, 6476 Norcross Road and have them credit the CLRSS account #484. We have raised \$186 from this initiative so in 2022.
- Thrifty Foods Smile Cards continue to bring in steady revenue, \$1000 for 2021 and \$240 so far in 2022. To order cards, contact Maureen at: mquested@shaw.ca 250 478-7595
Honeymoon Bay Market Saturdays, 10 – 2 p.m. Booth #3
- Retail sales were zero this year but you can contact Rosemary Danaher for any swag that you need

QUESTED'S CLRSS Summer Social at the Lake: July 10
12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Food provided but BYOB
Games, water sports (bring your bathing suits, paddle boards,
canoes, kayaks etc.) fundraising (bring your wallets)

RSVP mquested@shaw.ca



Communications Committee

Chantelle Carden

The plan for the 2021/22 Covid year was to keep members informed and up to date on current and upcoming projects associated with the organization.

We posted to our Facebook page regularly but some members don't engage with Facebook on a regular basis.

So we continued our bi-monthly newsletter to all CLRSS members using Mail Chimp. It provided a great tool for hyperlinking and increasing traffic to our website, therefore promoting our online educational materials and allowed us to keep in touch in another difficult year.

We have **1375** followers on our CLRSS Facebook Page.

Some statistics:

Of our **1375** followers on our Facebook page, 1253 of these are from Canada.

Of our followers:

- **359** are based in Duncan
- **191** are based in Victoria
- **135** are based in Lake Cowichan
- Our most popular post to date was the “Cowichan River is on life support” video, showing lake water being pumped over the weir into the river. We had **7,500** individual people watch it.

Education Committee

Diana Gunderson

**2021 Gerald Thom
Environmental
Studies Bursary of
\$1000 was
awarded to Kyle
McKechnie of Lake
Cowichan
Secondary School**



The Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden flourished in 2021



Caroline Thom at 2019 garden dedication

Gerald Thom Memorial Garden at Saywell Park

Despite COVID, our dedicated team of garden helpers kept Gerald's Memorial garden neat and tidy. This year we added yellow violets (which have 'taken") and native lilies which hopefully are dormant and not dead. We experienced some directional sign vandalism this year, and this sign has been replaced thanks to a Town of LC grant.

Thank you "Gerald's Team" for being reliable helpers. You can take pride in your efforts as Gerald's garden is flourishing.

Salmonid Fry Salvage

Thanks to a dedicated crew of CLRSS volunteers, community members, Cowichan Salmon Enhancement Society folks and Cowichan Tribes members who collaborate to save fry by relocating them to the lake for summer survival. After late spring rains, high spring flows in the tributaries allowed fry to migrate to the lake on their own and we had little work to do. We moved less than 20,000 fry in 2021 compared to averaging about 100,000 in recent drought years.



Water Sampling

This is the 29th year since sites were selected for monitoring on Cowichan Lake, predating the formation of CLRSS considerably. In 2021, our 3 merry crews made 16 outings between May and October. The data is sent to the Ministry of the Environment and BCLSS.

Thanks to our Monitoring Crews



Water Traffic Program

CLRSS boater's brochure continues to be part of the CLRSS informational package



In 2021 **CLRSS** joined the Canadian Decibel Coalition which is advocating to create decibel limits for boat engines on Canadian waterways.



THE DECIBEL COALITION
Working to create boating decibel limits

History

Beginning in 2008, many lakeshore residents attempted to find ways to curb the incidence of inconsiderate and sometimes dangerous boating behaviour on Cowichan Lake. This became one of the issues that resulted in the forming of the CLRSS. The boater issue is still with us. So, when the opportunity arose to join the Canadian Decibel Coalition CDC, in the fall of 2020, the CLRSS agreed to sign on.

Coalition Goal

The CDC goal is to have Transport Canada (TC) enhance the Small Vessel Regulations to include decibel limits for noise from boat motors and provide efficient and effective enforcement procedures. CDC proposes a decibel limit law of 75 decibels at 100 meters.

Progress

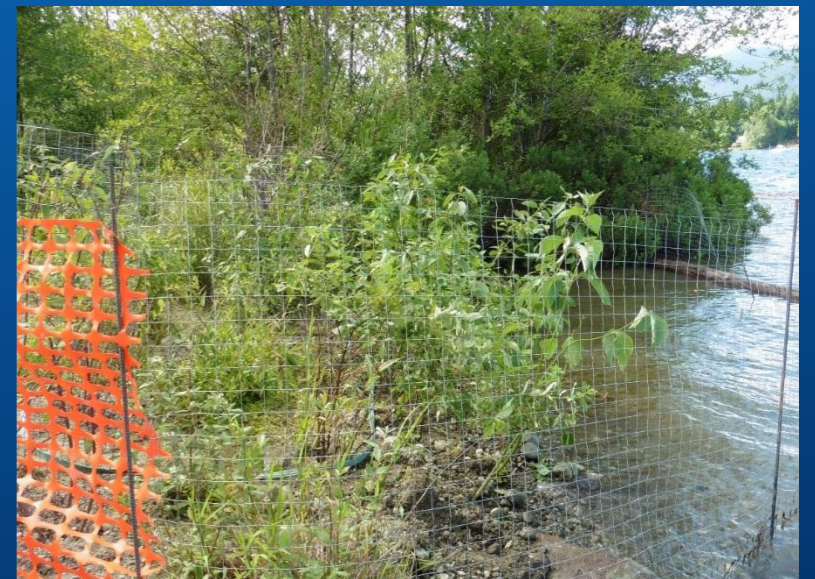
Since Nov 2019 CDC has grown from its 5 original Ontario member associations to 20, adding BC and Quebec groups (approx. 10,000 waterfront residents represented) including CLRSS, Youbou Community Ass. and the Shawnigan Residents Ass. from Vancouver Island and is now working hard to bring more local governments on board. Excessively loud boats are a major problem. Your help is needed now to put lobbying pressure on Transport Canada to regulate excessive boat noise.

Go to CLRSS.ca for more information.

**Cowichan
Shoreline
Stewardship
Project
(2017-2021)**



**Riparian
Restoration
(BCCF)**



**Landowner
Education
(CLRSS)**

**Community
Engagement
(CLRSS)**

**Riparian
Protection
(CLRSS)**

Eight Years of Riparian Shoreline Restoration

- After suspending CSSP activity in 2020 we collaborated with BCCF again in summer 2021 at 3 public sites in the Cowichan Lake area
- See our website for a new, detailed report and presentation on the program
- A total of 44 shoreline sites/properties have been restored since the project began in 2014.
- The area restored exceeded project targets and totaled 21,387 m² riparian habitat along more than 1400 linear meters of Cowichan Lake and River shorelines.
- 395 face-to-face educational visits, including 319 surveys, were conducted with lakefront property owners over the 6 years.
- More than 8 tours of restored properties, targeting local politicians, real estate agents, project funders, and other interested parties, were completed.
- A video about riparian knowledge and values is available on our website and for educational activities.
- No doubt, CSSP has helped landowners to understand how looking after their “piece-of-the-shoreline” contributes to one of the prime objectives of the project, the health of Cowichan Lake.

Landowner
Education (CLRSS)
Suspended in 2021



Community
Engagement
(CLRSS)
Restricted in 2021



We need
your
continued
support!

Thank you, CLRSS supporters